

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

We understand that certain property owned by Lincoln Paper and Tissue, LLC (LP&T), in Lincoln, Maine, is under consideration for inclusion on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund program National Priorities List (NPL). The Town of Lincoln supports the inclusion of the LP&T property on the NPL, but has requested that EPA designate a 90-100 acre parcel of the property under the Brownfields program because this parcel has been identified as considerably less contaminated than the rest of the property. The parcel has access to natural gas, three-phase power, and rail, making it ideal for industrial redevelopment, including for potential site reuses such as light manufacturing, biomass energy production, and wood products businesses. We urge your consideration of the Town of Lincoln's request that this parcel be designated for the Brownfields program.

The last few years have been particularly challenging for Maine's rural communities and the Penobscot River Valley region in particular, with the loss of five pulp and paper mills in the past two years. At the request of industry and community leaders, we worked with the Economic Development Administration to assemble federal partners to participate in an Economic Development Assessment Team (EDAT). The EDAT is leveraging the power of multiple federal agencies and harnessing stakeholder input to create economic development strategies that will help pave the way for job growth in this region. In January 2017, the EDAT released recommendations, including redeveloping closed mill sites and diversifying and strengthening Maine's rural economy. The redevelopment of this LP&T parcel under the Brownfield program is exactly the type of project that the EDAT was seeking to help advance.

The EDAT, including local stakeholders, is continuing to work with the affected communities, including the Town of Lincoln, as they navigate the complex process of site assessment and site remediation, helping these communities connect to local, state, and federal resources.

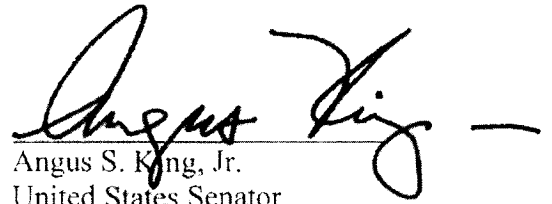
We have been in close contact with Town of Lincoln officials regarding the high level of environmental remediation that is needed for the LP&T property. Lincoln officials agree that much of the core property should be included on the NPL as a Superfund site. However, a Superfund site can take decades to fully remediate, pushing redevelopment too far down the road. Remediation of this 90-100 acre parcel under the Brownfields program, however, would greatly expedite the redevelopment of the site for a new industrial use and bring needed jobs to the area much more quickly.

We appreciate your willingness to work with the Town of Lincoln as it plans to bring new investment to Lincoln, while continuing to preserve the region's beautiful lakes, rivers, and natural resource-based economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being more prominent than the middle initial "M." and the last name "Collins".

Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus S. King, Jr.". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name. The first name "Angus" is written in a large, flowing script, followed by "S. King, Jr." in a smaller, more compact script.

Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator